

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02022 221551Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8576

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 2022

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ARA FOR D AND L ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, CI
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

1. AT MEETING THIS MORNING, MARCH 21, GOC OFFICIALS MONTERO AND MENA INFORMED PROPPER, ET AL., THAT THERE WILL BE PUBLIC STATEMENT VERY SHORTLY (IMPLICATION WAS THIS AFTERNOON) THAT EX-DINA HEAD, MANUEL CONTRERAS, HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ARMY. THE STATED REASON, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR THIS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC, IS THAT HE LIED WHILE HEAD OF DINA TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET.

2. LAWYER ETCHEBERRY HAD HEARD YESTERDAY FROM A CHILEAN SOURCE THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD CALLED CONTRERAS IN TO INFORM HIM OF THIS ACTION. PROPPER THIS MORNING WAS TOLD THAT ALL MILITARY CHIEFS HAVE BEEN INFORMED.

3. ALSO AT THIS MORNING'S MEETING, GOC OFFICIALS AND THEIR LAWYER, MIGUEL SCHWEITZER, STATED INTENTION TO DELIVER THE CHILEANS WHO TRAVELLED ON PASSPORTS OF WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL TO LETTERS ROGATORY JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ THIS AFTERNOON. WE HAVE SINCE INFORMED SCHWEITZER THAT USG THROUGH ETCHEBERRY
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WOULD CONTEST QUESTIONING OF THESE TWO PERSONS ON GROUNDS THEY ARE NOT THE TWO WHOSE TESTIMONY WE SEEK (I.E., WE WANT TOWNLEY AND FERNANDEZ). WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT COURT APPEARANCES OF ANY OF THE FOUR HAVE BEEN POSTPONED. THE GOC CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND TOWNLEY.

4. WE WILL INFORM BY IMMEDIATE CABLE IF AND WHEN ANNOUNCEMENT

MADE ON CONTRERAS.

LANDAU

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